

REMARKS

The claimed invention is directed to a nitrite-free grease composition that avoids the abnormal peeling of a surface of a bearing. The grease makes possible a longer life for a sealed bearing containing the grease of the invention and also avoids exposing people and the environment to harmful nitrites. Tables 1 and 2 in the specification provide data that establish that the claimed grease composition avoids the abnormal peeling on rolling surface of a ball and roller bearing.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract in that the term "nitrate" was used in place of --nitrite--. In response, a new Abstract is being filed with this Amendment which uses the term "nitrite" in place of --nitrate--.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the term "soda" as used at page 9. In response, the term "soda" has been rewritten as --sodium--. For this reason, it is requested that this ground of objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the absence of subscripts for R2, R3 and R4 and the use of the word degree with the symbol for degree. This Amendment corrects the noted errors and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Reconsideration is requested.

The text of claim 1 has been amended to replace "nitrate" with --nitrite-- in accordance with the specification at pages 8-9 and the Examples. For this reason, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner noted that the formula in claim 1 was incorrect and correction was required. In response, the formula has been corrected and it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-06-200273 (JP-273) in view of Naka et al. (Naka).

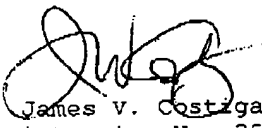
Reconsideration is requested.

JP-273 does not disclose a grease composition for avoiding abnormal peeling of a rolling surface of a bearing or that a grease composition containing a dibasic acid salt can avoid abnormal peeling. The dibasic acid is used only as a thickener. Example 7 and Comparative Example 1 of the present application provide data which show the effect of the presence of a dibasic acid in a grease composition. JP-273 utilizes a polyester as a base stock and does not disclose the use of a base oil having 20% or more of an alkyldiphenyl ether oil in the base stock, an organic bentonite as a thickener and a dibasic acid as a rust preventative. Naka discloses a grease composition for rolling bearings where the grease composition contains a diurea thickener but no dibasic acid.

There is no direction or teaching in either reference that directs a skilled artisan to selectively combine ingredients from the cited references and make a grease composition containing both a dibasic acid and an aromatic thiourea. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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